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Report from Seattle, Wash.—Plague-prevention work.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover reports, June 22:

SEATTLE, WASH.

Week ended June 20.

Rats received	1,180
Rats necropsied	1,090
Plague rats found	0
Plague-infected rats to date	11
Ships inspected	8
Ships fumigated	3

Report on smallpox investigation in Alexandria, Va.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Goldberger reports, June 27:

Pursuant to telephonic orders I proceeded to Alexandria and called upon the health officer who had requested the Bureau to detail an officer for the purpose of settling the diagnosis of certain cases of eruptive fever. Cases of this disease had been occurring from time to time since early in January of this year, but on account of its mildness many of the laity have questioned the correctness of the health officer's diagnosis, and have accordingly been indifferent or actively opposed to taking the necessary sanitary measures for its suppression.

The health officer showed me 13 cases of the disease in six families. Of these, 4 presented a well-marked discrete eruption which was clearly that of smallpox; the others were convalescent, evidently from the same disease. With only one exception none of those I saw even claimed to have ever been vaccinated, although several were children of school age; the one exception was a young man presenting a well-marked discrete eruption who claimed to have been vaccinated in 1898, but a careful search for a scar failed to reveal any evidence of it.

Practically nothing is being done to suppress the disease. The health officer told me that disinfection with formaldehyde was being practiced, but from his description of the method employed I obtained a strong impression that it was ineffective. There being no hospital where the sick and contacts can be taken for treatment and isolation, an attempt is made to isolate them in their homes by placing a guard outside. This guard is maintained during the day only.

Manifestly this practice affords but little if any protection to the community; on the contrary, by permitting a continuance of the intimate association in the household between the sick and the well (the latter for the most part unprotected children), we have a condition of affairs which is in the highest degree favorable to the multiplication in the number of cases and the indefinite prolongation of the outbreak.

To correct this deplorable state of affairs and to cut short the outbreak, I would respectfully recommend the following:

1. Prompt reporting of all cases of smallpox, varioloid, and other eruptive diseases simulating these.
2. The isolation of the sick in a properly constructed hospital, or, awaiting the erection of a hospital, in a suitable building rented for the purpose, or in a temporary camp on the outskirts of the city.
3. Vaccination of all who have been exposed to the infection, and surveillance for a period of fourteen days subsequent thereto.